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Saudi Arabia

Poultry and Products

Kingdom Bans Imports of Live Poultry

2005

Approved by:

Asif J. Chaudhry

U.S. Embassy, Cairo, Egypt

Prepared by:

Hussein Mousa, Fred Giles

Report Highlights:

On November 12, 2005, the Saudi Government imposed an immediate ban on the importation of live birds from all exporting countries due to concerns over avian influenza. The government decree excludes day-old chicks and hatching eggs from the import ban.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Riyadh [SA2]
[SA]

On November 12, 2005, the Saudi Arabian government issued royal decree number 11361 that imposes a ban on imports of live birds from all exporting countries to prevent any likelihood of importing live birds that might carry avian influenza (AI). The ban, which was implemented immediately, does not include imports of day old chicks and hatching eggs that are produced in professionally monitored projects. That means, U.S. exports of day old chicks and hatching eggs to Saudi Arabian valued in 2003 at more than \$4.2 million will not be affected.

The Saudi move is an apparent response to the November 2005 discovery of two birds in Kuwait infected with bird flu. According to the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture's (MOA) report, a pet bird (falcon) imported from East Asia and a flamingo living in a private marine chalet in Kuwait were tested positive for AI. In addition to banning imports of live birds, the decree authorized the MOA to immediately destroy all live birds recently imported via any of the Kingdom's ports of entry.

Before issuing the recent decree, the Kingdom had on various occasions banned imports of live poultry and poultry products from countries that reported cases of AI. Over the past two years, the Kingdom has banned imports of live poultry and poultry products from the following countries: China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Japan, Turkey, Romania, South Korea, Pakistan, and Russia.

The MOA has intensified its monitoring activities of 500 poultry farms in various parts of the Kingdom. The recent royal decree provided more than five million dollars to enable the MOA to purchase standby incinerators for its 25 quarantine centers to immediately destroy any imported live birds.

The following table shows U.S. poultry and egg exports to Saudi Arabia for 2003

Product	Value in USD
Live poultry	\$ 842,000
Baby chicks	839,000
Eggs	2,563,000
Total	\$4,244,000

Source: U.S. Trade Statistics (FATUS Export Aggregations)

Note: no data available for 2004 due to import ban in place at that time live birds, baby chicks and hatching eggs.